

anniversary to rededicate ourselves to reclaiming that freedom that is our birthright.

In 1986, Harcharan Singh Longowal struck the Rajiv-Longowal Accord, in which India promised to return the capital city of Chandigarh, which Sikhs built, and the Punjabi-speaking areas of Himachal Pradesh and Haryana, which were kept out of Punjab in 1965. Twenty-one years later, India has not kept that promise.

India has a long history of not keeping its promises. It promised the people of Kashmir a plebiscite on their status in 1948 and the vote has never been held. Nor has it kept its promises to the people of Nagaland. Instead, Nehru said that even if he had to put a soldier under every tree, he would never allow a free Nagaland. The Indian government has killed over 90,000 Kashmiri Muslims, over 300,000 Christians in Nagaland, tens of thousands of Muslims and Christians elsewhere in the country, and tens of thousands of Assamese, Bodos, Dalits, Manipuris, Tamils, and other minorities. Tens of thousands more of them continue to be held as political prisoners, according to Amnesty International. Is that a democracy? These facts underline the necessity to free our homeland, Khalistan, now, and to support freedom for all the people of South Asia.

Remember the words of Guru Gobind Singh, "In grieb Sikhin ko deon Patshahi." ("I grant sovereignty to the humble Sikhs.") Freedom is the birthright of all people and nations. It is also granted by our Gurus.

When I visited Pakistan in November for Guru Nanak's birthday, the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Shaukat Aziz, offered to build a road from Kartarpur (where Guru Nanak left this world) to the border if India will build their portion. They even offered to build a fence if India wants one. With this road, Sikhs could go, and visit this holy site with no visa. The Akalis could build this road themselves, but they have not done it so far. The spineless Akalis continue to be lapdogs of Delhi. How could the Akalis join with the BJP (the political arm of the RSS) to form a government when the BJP is determined to destroy the Sikh religion by any and all means at their disposal? We must end Indian control of our government, society, and institutions. That control is what the Golden Temple attack was designed to cement. We must stand up and say no. Remember Maharajah Ranjit Singh, who led a powerful, secular Sikh state that was independent from 1765 to 1849. Let us have a new birth of freedom, in our homeland, Khalistan.

The Indian government is scared of the Sikh Nation's aspiration for freedom. Recently, it set off an incident in which Baba Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh dressed up as Guru Gobind Singh and advertised in the newspaper, offering to give Amrit to anyone, a function reserved for the Panj Piaras after Guru Gobind Singh baptized them. In addition, it recently put up a statue of Beant Singh, former Chief Minister of Punjab, who presided over the killing of a majority of the 250,000-plus Sikhs who have been murdered. Simranjit Singh Mann and Wassan Singh Zaffarwal were arrested for peacefully protesting the statue. In 2005, 35 Sikhs were arrested for making speeches and raising the flag of Khalistan. All these repressive acts are in the spirit of the Golden Temple attack and continue the repression. They are evidence that we must free Khalistan now.

Let us remind the Indian government that we have not forgotten the atrocities committed against the Khalsa panth at the Golden Temple and from then on. It is time to reclaim our freedom. India must act like the democracy it claims to be and grant a free and fair plebiscite on the issue of Khalistan under international supervision. It must stop arresting Sikh activists for peaceful political

activity. And we must honor the spirits of Bhindranwale and all the others killed at the Golden Temple and the 37 other Gurdwaras by launching a Shantmai Morcha to liberate our homeland, Khalistan, once and for all. Until then, we will continue to suffer under India's brutal repression. Let's see to it that our Sikh brothers and sisters finally enjoy the glow of freedom. I ask Sikhs of all shades and political affiliations to join hands to free Khalistan. Remember the words of the former Jathedar of the akal Takht Sahib, Professor Darshan Singh, that "If a Sikh is not a Khalistani, he is not a Sikh."

Sincerely,

DR. GURMIT SINGH AULAKH,
President,
Council of Khalistan.

HONORING THE ONONDAGA COMMUNITY COLLEGE LAZERS MEN'S LACROSSE TEAM

HON. JAMES T. WALSH

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. WALSH of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to the Onondaga Community College Lazers Lacrosse team, 2007 National Junior College Athletics Association Men's Lacrosse Champions. Onondaga Community College, OCC, defeated Nassau Community College by a score of 21-14, giving the school their second consecutive men's lacrosse national title.

The Lazers have an excellent track record in college lacrosse. For the past 7 consecutive years, the Lazers have won the Mid-State Athletic conference title, for the last 3 years they have been Region III Champions, and for the last 2 years they have been undefeated and national champions. The OCC Lazers Men's Lacrosse program has produced 23 All Americans, and 27 Lacrosse Coaches Association Academic All Americans. With their display of outstanding athleticism in going undefeated and winning national championships two seasons in a row, OCC has certainly established itself as one of the best junior college lacrosse teams in history.

On behalf of the entire 25th Congressional District, I congratulate these young men on their outstanding athletic achievement and praise Head Coach Chuck Wilbur, and Assistant Coaches Mike Villano, Joe Villano, and Chris Brim on their team's success. I look forward to another exciting year when the Lazers take the field to defend their title in 2008.

No. 1, Brooks Robinson; No. 2, Jerome Thompson; No. 3, Dan Casciano; No. 4A/37H, Jeremy Thompson; No. 5, Holdon Vyse; No. 6, Lee Nanticoke; No. 7, Jack Redmond; No. 8, Kent Squires-Hill; No. 9, Nick Larocca; No. 10, Logan Kane; No. 11, Isaiah Kicknosway; No. 12, Thomas Anthis; No. 13, Andy Lamb; No. 14, Joe Taylor; No. 15, Lee Thomas; No. 16, Bill Walton; No. 17, Ross Bucktooth; No. 18, Sean Griffin; No. 19, Pat DiMatteo; No. 20, PJ Motondo; No. 21, Nick Kazimer; No. 22, Cody Jamieson; No. 23, Keith Tomazic; No. 24, Tyler Hill; No. 25, Cody Dummer; No. 26, Adam Rivers; No. 27, Kasey Fellows; No. 28, Josh Groth; No. 29, Steve Prosonic; No. 30, Kris Frier; No. 31, Wade Bucktooth; No. 32, Kyle Wenzel; No. 33, Padraic McKendry; No. 34, Pat Dwyer; No. 35, Brian Buckley; No. 36, Fred Bush; No. 38, Kyle Turbe; No. 39, James

Synowiez; No. 40, John Stanistreet; No. 41, Mike Fahey; No. 42, Spencer Mallia; No. 43, Greg Haney; No. 44, Sean McCauliffe; No. 45, Dustin Jacobsen; No. 48, Clinton Kennedy.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MICHAEL K. SIMPSON

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. SIMPSON. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 384, to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 689, the Industrial Bank Holding Company Act, I was unavoidably detained and unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted "aye."

CONGRATULATING KAMLEH SHABAN

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Ms. Kamleh Shaban of Doane College. Ms. Shaban is a public health student and a recipient of the prestigious Fulbright Award. This grant is given to promising individuals to aid them in their academic and cultural pursuits abroad.

The Fulbright Program was established by Congress in 1946 and is sponsored by the U.S. State Department. This program was designed to help build mutual understanding between Americans and the global community. Individuals who are awarded this distinction have demonstrated outstanding academic or professional achievement and have proven themselves as leaders in their field.

Madam Speaker, please join me in paying tribute to Ms. Shaban and wishing her the best in her future endeavors.

INDIA MUST STOP PROMOTING SECTARIAN VIOLENCE

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, May 23, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, India is again promoting sectarian violence in pursuit of its continued control of the Sikhs and other minorities. A fake baba named Baba Gurmit Ram Rahim Singh, who is sponsored by the Indian government, created a sect called Dera Sacha Sauda, one of many sects set up to divide the Sikh people. He took out a newspaper ad in which he dressed up as Guru Gobind Singh and offered to perform the rite of Amrit, which not anyone can perform, for anyone who contacted him. Performing this rite is reserved for specific religious leaders.

This ad caused massive protests, as it was an insult to the Sikh religion. Those demonstrations turned violent. A man named Kanwaljit Singh was murdered by the followers of the Dera when he went there to confront them about Ram Rahim's behavior.